

John Humphries.

Children shouting their Hosannas to CHRIST.

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A

S E R M O N

Occasioned by the Death of

A C H I L D,

Who was eight Years old;

With some Account of her pious Temper,
while she was in Health; and of her re-
markable Expressions in her last Illness.

P R E A C H E D A T

K I D D E R M I N S T E R,

October 22, 1769.

By BENJAMIN FAWCETT, M. A.

*Children amidst the Temple throng
To see their great Redeemer's Face,
The Son of David is their Song,
And young Hosannas fill the Place.*

Watts.

S H R E W S B U R Y,

Printed by J. EDDOWES, near the Market-House;
And sold by J. BUCKLAND, at the Buck, in Pater-noster-Row,
And E. and C. DILLY, at the Rose and Crown, in the Poultry.
LONDON. M D C C L X X .

[Price stitched THREE PENCE.]



Original print

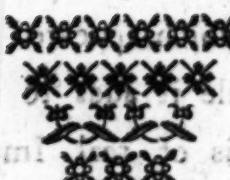
A child been ill, & you will be enabled to do all
in your power to make him comfortable,
and to give him a good & pleasant book.

Advertisement.

THE following Sermon is but a Vehicle to
the *Pattern for Children*, which it contains.
The Author would gladly have collected a Num-
ber of such Examples, and have published them
without the Sermon. But his Enquiries for that
Purpose convinced him, that many such Examples
are lost to the Publick, either for Want of com-
mitting the Materials soon enough to Writing, or
by confining what is written, to the Expressions of
a Sick-bed, without duly connecting them with the
pious Temper, which appeared in Health. Such a
Connection, while it adds to the Authenticity of
the Narrative, is of real Importance to every
Reader. Children may, in reading, see the Neces-
sity of attending to the Care of their Souls in
Health, if they desire to have heavenly Thoughts,
Expressions, and Comforts, in Sickness. Pious Pa-
rents, while they read, will be encouraged to per-
severe and abound in the religious Care of their

Children. To which it may be added, that other Heads of Families, if they should read this Account, may be led to consider, that Piety in Childhood naturally supposes a pious Education; and that no Children can reasonably be expected to die with Christ and Heaven in their Hearts and Mouths, who have never been well-catechised at Home, nor enjoyed religious Instructions and Prayers in the Families, where they were born, or brought up.

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~~the Standard of the Cross, and the Standard of the Lamb.~~

~~The Lamb is the Standard of the Cross, and the Cross is the Standard of the Lamb.~~

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Matthew XXI. 15, 16.

And when the Chief Priests and Scribes saw the wonderful Things that he did, and the Children crying in the Temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David, they were sore displeased, and said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the Mouth of Babes and Sucklings thou hast perfected Praise?

THE Wonders referred to in the Text, are great and many. In this Part of the sacred History, to which the Text belongs (a), we have the adorable King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, entering into his royal City in Triumph; but how humble and lowly his Appearance! *He sits upon an Ass, even a Colt the Foal of an Ass,* after his poor Followers had first cast their Garments upon it. They indeed surrounded him with their joyful Hosannas, but he himself mingles Tears with his Triumph, and weeps over the Souls that refused to share in the Blessings of his peaceful Reign. With the Crowd of his Admirers he enters into the Temple, but is there filled with Grief and Indignation, at seeing the House of Prayer turned into a Den of Thieves. After banishing the Profanations from that holy Place, he performs in it numerous Works of Benevolence and Love. His almighty Power opens the Eyes of the Blind, unstops the deaf Ears,

(a) Matt. xxi. 1—14. Luke xix. 29—47.

makes the Dumb speak, and the Lame walk. Never does Majesty shine so conspicuous, as in Meekness and Condescension to the Meanest. Nothing renders Grandeur and Dignity so illustrious, as Pity and Beneficence to the Helpless and Miserable. How such Condescension and Grace were more particularly illustrated in the additional Circumstances recorded in the Text, may in some Measure appear, while we attend to the following Observations :

First, The Children in the Temple shouted their Hosannas to Christ.

Secondly, This was very displeasing to the Chief Priests and Scribes.

Thirdly, But to Christ himself it was very acceptable.

First, We are to observe, how the Children in the Temple shouted their Hosannas to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Temple was the Place of public Worship for all *Israelites*, whetlier Rich or Poor, Old or Young. Its magnificent and costly Buildings were the Beauty and Glory of *Jerusalem*, as *Jerusalem* was of the whole Land of *Judea*. This Temple was not now in all Respects equal to the former, when it was perfected by *Solomon*. But the Presence of Christ in it, as the promised *Messiah*, gave it a Glory, that far exceeded the Glory, even of *Solomon's* Temple. Now was that Prophecy fulfilled, which was so seasonably made to the *Jews*, to encourage them in building this Temple, under all the Disadvantages belonging to their late Return from the *Babylonish Captivity*; *The Desire of all*

all Nations shall come, and I will fill this House with Glory, saith the Lord of Hosts. The Silver is mine, and the Gold is mine, saith the Lord of Hosts. The Glory of this latter House shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of Hosts (b).

It is natural to suppose, that amongst the Multitudes of Christ's Followers, who had now joyfully attended him into the City and Temple, there would be many Children. Every public Concourse usually draws the Attention of such Minds; and more especially if they see that the Occasion of the Concourse is such, as strongly to attract the Attention, even of their Parents, and of many others whom they highly esteem. No Doubt some of these Children had been hearing the Multitudes cry, *Hosanna to the Son of David!* Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the Highest (c)! Some of them must have seen, how all the City was moved, when Christ ~~was~~ came into Jerusalem in so triumphant a Manner (d). And what would be still more affecting to the Minds of such Children, they had now seen the Blind and the Lame coming to Christ in the Temple, and how he healed them (e). All this was more than enough to strike them with Wonder, and fill them with Esteem and Love for such a generous Benefactor and Friend. Nor could there be any Sort of Prejudice and perverse Reasoning in their Minds, so as to spoil their Child-like Simplicity; but freely, and without any Hesitation or Disguise, they followed their strong and irresistible Convictions of almighty Power and disinterested Love, so visible in the Words and Works of Christ.

(b) Hag. ii, 2-9. (c) Matth. xi, 9. (d) - 30. (e) - 34.

Hosanna to the Son of David, was their joyful Cry.
 " Often have we heard and read of good King *David*.
 " Much do we remember of his many Victories in
 " War, his long and happy Life and Reign, and his
 " delightful *Psalms* of Praise. We have been often
 " told of a great Son, which *David* was to have,
 " who should say and do greater Things than *David*
 " himself. And this very Day Multitudes of People
 " have been praising *Jesus of Nazareth*, as that pro-
 " mised Son of *David*. We also with our own Eyes
 " have seen him do such wonderful Things, as we
 " never saw or heard of before. Surely this is the
 " glorious Son of *David*. He is come ! He is come !
 " We rejoice in his coming. We rejoice in the Blef-
 " sings he bestows. We wish he may reign for ever
 " and ever. O how happy are we to see, and to know
 " him, to hear his gracious Words, and see his won-
 " derful Works ! With all our Hearts we desire to
 " love him, and to bless God for him."

These are Sentiments, which Jewish Children may justly be supposed to feel and express. All that heard them, one would imagine, must be pleased with them, and every Tongue must pronounce them happy Children. But alas ! very contrary to this, we are to observe,

Secondly, The Children's Hosannas to Christ were very displeasing to the Chief Priests and Scribes.

The Chief Priests were the most eminent Persons in the holy Family of *Aaron*, that Saint of the Lord. The Scribes were those learned Men among the Jews, who professedly applied themselves to the Study of the Scriptures, contained in the Old Testament ; and who were either Judges in their Civil Courts, or Teachers

in their Schools and Synagogues. So that we have here the dignified Clergy, and others of the greatest Scriptural Knowledge, in whose Hands was lodged the principal Authority belonging both to Church and State, and from whom we might reasonably have expected the greatest Regard to Christ, and his divine Doctrines, and glorious Miracles. By these the Children should have been encouraged in their affectionate and seasonable Hosannas to Christ.

But alas ! they that should have been the very first to welcome the coming of the Son of *David*, and to embrace his Doctrines, and vindicate his Miracles, had, on the contrary, the first and principal Hand in reproaching and persecuting him, in misrepresenting both his Doctrines and Miracles to the People, and in preventing, as far as they possibly could, the Advance-
ment of his Kingdom and Interest in the World. They had turned the divine Religion of *Moses* into mere Form and Ceremony, by their Ignorance, Pride and Hypocrisy. They had so grossly misinterpreted all the Prophecies relating to the Son of *David*, as to expect the Coming only of a temporal Prince and Saviour, in all the Pomp and Show of worldly Riches, Honours and Pleasures. They therefore despised the humble Form of the Son of God. They abhorred his Attempts for Reformation, as needless ; and were foolishly confident, that they themselves were wise and good enough. Their Envy and Rage were strongly excited by every Instance of Respect, which the Multitude paid to the meek and lowly Jesus, and to the wonderful Things which he said and did. Filled with such ungenerous Principles and vile Affections, they could not bear with Patience to hear so much as Children join in the Hosannas of the Multitude.

Heartfelt

Hearst thou what these say? was their contemnous Language. " Is it for thy Honour, to have thy Praises thus fulsomely propagated by Children? " What have they to utter, but Sound, without Sense? " Poor, thoughtless, ignorant Creatures! They are only repeating what they have heard from the noisy, deluded Rabbie. And wilt thou permit such Praise from such childish Lips? Hath not this an apparent Tendency to increase upon thee a Load of deserved Censures from all that are wise and prudent?"

Here we see, that learned and great Men are not always wise (f), and that tho' the Priests' Lips should keep Knowledge (g) yet even they are too often very defective. But to the Law, and to the Testimony, if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no Light in them (h). Such are the holy, just and awesal Dispensations of divine Providence in every Age, that not many wise Men after the Flesh, nor many mighty, nor many noble are called. But God hath chosen the foolish Things of the World, to confound the wise. And God hath chosen the weak Things of the World, to confound the Things which are mighty. And base Things of the World, and Things which are despised, hath God chosen; yea, and Things which are not, to bring to Nought Things that are. That no Flesh shoula glory in his Presence (i). While contemplating such unerring Dispensations, we are expressly told, that even Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, because thou hast hid these Things from the Wise and Prudent, and hast revealed them unto Babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight (k). The Lord

(f) Job xxxii. 9. (g) Mal. iii. 7. (h) Isa. viii. 20.

(i) 1 Cor. i. 26—29. (k) Matt. xi. 25, 26.

Jesus, therefore, would not be slow, to vindicate the Babes in the Text, against the perverse Insinuations of envious Chief Priests and Scribes. How effectually they were silenced by him, who is the faithful Witness, will appear under our last Observation.—For,

Thirdly, The Children's Hosannas, which so much displeased the Chief Priests and Scribes, were to Christ himself highly acceptable.

We in some Measure discern with what Sneer and Contempt, with what Envy and Malice, the Chief Priests and Scribes said to our Lord, *Hearest thou what these Children say?* Happy for us, if we may be enabled to enter into the Spirit of our Lord's calm, rational, and most convincing Reply. It is as if our Lord had told them;

" Yes, I do hear what the Children say, and hear it with cordial Approbation. If I did not declare, how pleasing such Language is to me, I should contradict the leading Design of all my Doctrines and Miracles, and should in Effect deny, that my Father hath sent me, and that I am come, as the expected Messiah, the Son of God, and the Saviour of Men. I am indeed the promised Son of David, and whom David himself called his Lord (l). It was David also, that said of me, *Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord* (m). And are not these Words of David usually repeated by the Jews on the most joyful Occasions, particularly at the Feast of Tabernacles, to intimate their Desire of partaking in the Joy of the Messiah's actual Appearance among them? This their Joy was full, when, as I entered the

(l) Psalm cx. i. (m) Psalm cxviii. 26.

" City, a very great Multitude spread their Garments in
 " the Way ; others cut down Branches of Palm-Trees,
 " and strewed them in the Way ; And the Multitudes that
 " went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Ho-
 " sanna to the Son of David ! Blessed is he that cometh
 " in the Name of the Lord ! Hosanna in the Highest (n) !
 " And while the Children do but repeat the same,
 " and with such peculiar Propriety, in this holy Place,
 " and on this solemn Occasion, I must vindicate it, as
 " the Language of Truth and Uprightness. You can-
 " not reasonably suspect, that their Hearts are influ-
 " enced by Craft and Guile, or by Malice and Envy.
 " Were your own Hearts conscious to a Child-like
 " Simplicity and Sincerity, you also, fully convinced
 " by the wonderful Things which you know I have
 " done, would join in the Children's joyful Hosanna.
 " You are but repeating the same Objections, as
 " have already been made, this very Day, by Persons
 " of your own unhappy Spirit and Temper. For as
 " the Multitudes were crying, Hosanna, at that very
 " Instant some of the Pharisees from among the Multi-
 " tude, said unto me, Master, rebuke thy Disciples. But
 " for the same Reason, as I then vindicated the Mul-
 " titude, I now vindicate the Children. I even told
 " those Pharisees, that if these should hold their Peace,
 " the Stones would immediately cry out (o). It was my De-
 " sign thereby to intimate, that on such an Occasion,
 " God would even animate Stones, rather than not ful-
 " fill what his Prophets have foretold. But you, and
 " others, too plainly shew, that your Hearts are more
 " impenetrable than Stones, while you persevere in
 " your stupid Ignorance of the plainest and most im-

(n) John xii. 13. Matt. xxi. 8, 9. (o) Luke xix. 39, 40.
portant

" portant Truths, and in your obstinate Contradictions
 " to them, tho' they have been confirmed before your
 " Eyes by the strongest Evidences."

" Though you may well be surprized to have it suggested, that God would enable even Stones to supply
 " the Defects of his rational Creatures, rather than
 " one Tittle of his Word should fall to the Ground; yet
 " in these very Children, whom you so much despise, I
 " will point out to you the evident Finger of God.
 " Their *Hosannas* are indeed supported by Reasons,
 " more, and greater, than their feeble Powers are able
 " to comprehend. But their Eyes have seen, and their
 " Ears have heard, enough to convince their unprejudiced Minds, who I am, and wherefore I am come.
 " These Convictions are so impressed upon them by
 " the powerful, tho' secret, Influences of the Spirit
 " of God, that they now shout these *Hosannas*, which
 " your Infidelity treats with the highest Contempt
 " and Abhorrence. For the Truth of this I appeal
 " to the Testimony of *David*, which shall silence your
 " Cavils, tho' I know it will but the more exasperate
 " your Rage and Malice. *Have you never read those*
 " Words of his, *Out of the Mouth of Babes and*
 " *Sucklings hast thou ordained Strength, and perfected*
 " *Praise* (p)? I know you have often read them, but
 " have never considered their real Importance, and par-
 " ticularly in the present Case. The Hand of divine
 " Providence appeared admirable to *David's* devoutly
 " contemplative Mind, in so often, accomplishing the
 " noblest Designs by the weakest and the most un-
 " likely Instruments. He could with great Propriety
 " apply his general Remark to such Particulars, as

(p) Psalm viii. 2. compared with the Text.

the

" the Ease and Efficacy, with which Infants are enabled to draw from their Mother's Breasts, the best of Nourishment for their tender Age ; and the no less wonderful Ease and Efficacy, with which David himself was enabled to smite and slay, first a Lion and a Bear, and afterwards Goliath, the gigantick Philistine (q). As a farther Illustration of the same general Remark, he might, by the Spirit of Prophecy, foresee and foretell the Hosannas of these Children ; and even the future Triumphs of my Apostles, and other of my faithful Followers, who, like so many comparatively helpless Babes, shall nevertheless be rendered superior to all the Rage and Malice, all the Learning and Sophistry, all the Oppressions and Persecutions of the whole Anti-christian World."

The several particular Instances, with which David's general Observation has now been illustrated, may intimate, how happily the different Expressions of ordaining Strength, and of perfecting Praise, harmonize with each other. The former is used in the eighth Psalm, according to the Hebrew ; and the latter by the Evangelist in the Text, according to the Greek of the Seventy.

But how unspeakably happy were these Children, that their Cause was the Cause of Christ, and that his sacred Lips, which, in the Judgment of his inveterate Enemies, *speak as never Man spoke* (r), should be thus employed for their Vindication ! How peculiarly pleasing a Circumstance was this, in the Triumph of the meek and lowly Jesus ; not only to ride on an Ass, with no better Furniture than the Garments of his

(q) 1 Samuel xviii. 34—36. (r) John vii. 46.

poor Followers; not only to display his sovereign Power, in Acts of Mercy to the Lame and the Blind, and in purging away the Pollutions of the House of God; but in graciously accepting, and in fully vindicating these Children! It is not in our compassionate and condescending Lord, to scorn the meanest Name. *A bruised Reed shall he not break, and smoaking Flax shall he not quench, till he send forth Judgment unto Victory* (s).

The sacred History affords us other Instances of Christ's tender Notice of Children. We particularly read, how young Children were brought to him, that he should touch them; which he afterwards did, by taking them in his Arms, putting his Hands upon them, and blessing them. On that Occasion, we are surprized to find, that his own Disciples were so extremely mistaken, and had such contracted Views of their Lord's Dignity and Grace, as even to rebuke those that brought the Children. Such Conduct would have been much more suitable to the Character of Chief Priests and Scribes. But the many Faults, both of his Enemies and Friends, served only to illustrate the Excellencies of the Saviour. We are expressly told, *when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased; not with those that brought the Children, much less with the Children themselves, but with his own Disciples; and at once to rectify their Mistake, and enlarge their Minds in Knowledge and Love, he said unto them, suffer the little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God* (t).

Thus we have various and satisfying Evidences, both of Christ's Readiness to bless Children with the best

(s) Matt. xii. 20.

(t) Mark x. 13, 14, 16.

Blessings of his Grace, and to accept and reward their faithful, tho' smallest, Services.

THE IMPROVEMENT

Of such a Text, stored with such Sentiments, were we to follow where it naturally leads, would far exceed the Limits of our Time. But the present particular Occasion must not be overlooked ; and, indeed, will perfectly correspond with the Text, in suggesting the most interesting Thoughts, both to our Children, and ourselves. As for Instance,

1. Let us imitate the Example of our blessed Lord, by giving due Praise to those Children, in whom we discover remarkable Love to Christ, and Zeal for him.

Far be it from us to prefer the Temper and Conduct of proud and envious Chief Priests and Scribes, before that of the meek and lowly, the gracious, and compassionate Jesus. In every Respect let it be our highest Ambition, as it is our indispensable Duty, *to walk, even as he walked* (u). With a Christ-like Tenderness and Compassion, let our Hearts be drawn out in helping the Weak and Feeble; and, in earnest Concern for the rising Generation among us, by diligently cherishing in them the first Dawnings of Reason, in Order to implant the early Seeds of Piety and Holiness, of Desires after Christ, and Devotedness to him.

In every Stage of human Life we see, and should mourn, the deplorable Effects of Man's Apostacy from God. From hence it is, that *Childhood and Youth are Vanity* (w). This is the Source of that *Foolishness which is bound in the Heart of a Child* (x). *For vain Man is*

(u) 1 John ii. 6. (w) Eccles. xi. 10. (x) Prov. xxii. 15.

born like a wild Affe's Colt (y). How generally do young People forget, instead of seriously remembering their Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier in the Days of their Youth (z) ! And instead of fleeing youthful Lusts (a), what Multitudes are pursuing after them with all their Might !

Too few are the Instances of young People's close and cordial Attention to divine Things. But when the Bias of corrupt Nature appears to be really changed, and the Affections and Inclinations of Childhood and Youth are strongly tending to God and Christ, to Holiness and Heaven, how lovely is the Sight ! How illustrious is such a Work of divine Grace ! What faithful Servant of God, and sincere Lover of Christ, will not take peculiar Pleasure in tracing such Influences of the Holy Spirit, and in considering such a Work of the Lord, such an evident Operation of his Hands ?

The first Efforts of Children in Things relating to their Souls and Eternity, must naturally be expected to have a Mixture of Weakness and Infirmitiy peculiar to their Age. But will not Persons of riper Years, if they have attained to any good Measure of Standing and Experience in Christianity, easily recollect that when they themselves were Children, whether in Age, or in Religion, or both, they spake as Children, they understood as Children, they thought as Children (b) ? Can they survey the amiable Pattern of our blessed Lord and Saviour, and feel no Emulation in their Breasts, to go and do likewise (c) ? Surely it will be perfectly pleasing to them, to pass by the little Weaknesses and Imperfections of such young Christians, and by no Means to despise the Day of small Things (d).

(y) Job xi. 12. (z) Eccles. xii. 1. (a) 2 Tim. ii. 22.

(b) 1 Cor. xiii. 11. (c) Luke x. 37. (d) Zech. iv. 10.

I well know the Families in this Neighbourhood are no Strangers to a little Book, entitled, *A Token for Children*, written in the last Age by the Reverend and pious Mr. James Janeway. There you have several Examples of young Children who were eminent for their love to God and Christ, and their fervent Desires after Holiness and Heaven, and who met their early Death with sweet Complacency, and even with joyful Triumph. Many of us can testify, that the Reading the *Token for Children* was a Means of great Good to ourselves, when we were young, and has since been so to the tender Branches of our own Families. In humble Hope of promoting the same pious Purpose, among the numerous Youth of this Congregation, I now beg Leave to communicate to you, from the Pulpit, some Account of the religious Temper and Character of a Child of eight Years old, from whose Grave the Mourners are but just returned, and have taken their Seats in this Assembly *.

* *Phebe L——* was a Child of a sweetly obliging Temper. She very early discovered the utmost Readiness to obey her Parents. This made her always afraid of offending them. And when she

* There were but few Persons in so large a Congregation, who had any Knowledge of the deceased Child, much less of any Thing distinguishing in her Life and Death. It was therefore requisite to mention the Funeral, from which the Mourners were just returned, previous to the giving some Account of her. But the Account then given in the Sermon, tho' it contained the most material Circumstances, was very short, compared with what was afterwards procured, when there was Leisure for more particular Enquiries, and when the Composure of mourning Friends rendered them capable of more exact Recollection. *Phebe L——*, was born Sept. 4. and baptized Oct. 3, 1761. She died Oct. 17, 1769.

* thought

' thought she had done any Thing to displease them,
 ' tho' ever so undesignedly; it was difficult to moderate
 ' her Grief, or put her Period to her Trembling, and
 ' Fears.' and now about two and three years old.

' Whatever she spoke upon all Occasions, it was
 ' with the greatest Caution, lest in any Instance she
 ' should depart from the Truth.'

' As soon as she could read, she discovered an eager
 ' Desire after Knowledge, and a great Delight in
 ' pious Books. Whether her Employment in the Fa-
 ' mily was to knit, or to rock the Cradle, she still
 ' kept in her Lap one or other of her favourite Books,
 ' either Dr. Watts's *Divine Songs for Children*, or his
Psalms and Hymns, or Mr. Fairway's *Token for Chil-
 ' dren*, or her *Catechism*. She usually carried one of
 ' these Books in her Pocket, wherever she went.'

' Constant Attendance upon Family and Publick
 ' Worship was very delightful to her. This made her
 ' unwilling to go to Bed, without being present at Fa-
 ' mily Prayer. When her Father was reading the
 ' Scriptures to his Family, she would generally remem-
 ' ber some Part of what was read, so as to repeat it to
 ' him, after he had concluded. And she was so at-
 ' tentive to what she heard from the Pulpit, that she
 ' frequently remembered, and repeated at Home, se-
 ' veral of the Heads of a Sermon.'

' Very great was her Reverence for the Lord's-Day,
 ' and her Care to sanctify it. When she was in the
 ' Country, for her Health, and had none but Strangers
 ' about her, she was desired by some other Chil-
 ' dren, on a Lord's-Day, to go and play with them in
 ' the Garden, but even then she steadily refused, and
 ' with her usual Sweetness and Gravity told them,
It is the Lord's Day, and I must read my good Books.

• As for secret Prayer, she practised it daily, both
 • Morning and Evening. But her Mother very unex-
 • pectedly found, that she had laid aside her Forms
 • of Prayer, of her own Accord, when she was not
 • seven Years old. Being then asked, what Prayers
 • she made Use of, her Answer was, *I have left off*
 • *Forms*; and with great Simplicity proceeded to tell
 • her Mother, in what Manner, and with what Words,
 • she opened her Heart to God.

• When at any Time her Parents were talking of di-
 • vine Things to their Children, she was the most atten-
 • tive, and would often surprize them with her weighty
 • and serious Questions, especially concerning the
 • Glories of the heavenly World.

• The Illness, of which she died, made its first Ap-
 • pearance about half a Year before. After there had
 • been frequent Hopes of Recovery, and frequent Re-
 • lapses, she so far lost her Hearing, as to become very
 • unfit for Conversation. About five or six Days be-
 • fore her Death, she was seized with a Bleeding at her
 • Nose, which continued for several Hours, and then
 • her Hearing suddenly returned, and her Spirits seem-
 • ed to be greatly enlivened. Two or three Hours after
 • the Bleeding had ceased, she began to talk much,
 • with an unusual Pleasantness of Temper, and Pro-
 • priety of Expression, and all the Sentiments were the
 • most tender and devout. O my heavenly Father, said
 • she, *I wish I may die! I wish I could die and leave*
this wicked World! I wish I may sit at the Right Hand,
on the Judgment Day! O glorious Day! O gloriou-
s Place! O to sit at the Right Hand of Christ! Her Mo-
 • ther began to say to her, Phoebe, it is a World of Sin
 • — but before her Mother could add another Word,

she

she said, *Ah, a World of Sin, and a World of Sorrow!* O my heavenly Father, I wish I may die! I wish I may sit at the Right Hand! I wish you would come, Mother.

The Mother replied, It would be a dreadful Thing, Phoebe, to meet in eternal Torments. She then said, *Ah! Ah!* and immediately burst

into a Flood of Tears.

The next Day, which was Friday, she was expressing the same earnest Desires to die, and to sit at the Right Hand of Christ; and then added, Come Father and Mother! Come Sisters! Come Grandfather and Grandmother! Come all, and all, and all! So earnestly did she long to have all her Friends sit with her at the Right Hand in Glory. Then calling her Sisters near to her Bed, she affectionately said to them, *Love one another. Love to read. Love to pray. Love the Lord Jesus Christ.*

After lying still for a little while, the Persons that sat in the Room heard her say, as if suddenly answering to a Call, Coming, Coming. Her Mother going to the Bed-side, she eagerly said, Mother, look! look! What is it? What is it? and pointing upwards. Being asked, what she could see? She still repeated, look up! look up! Then she broke out into this Language, O Glory! Glory! Glory! I resign my Body to Earth and Dust. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!

Her Father being absent on a London Journey, she called for her Grandfather, and when he came, she said, Now I am fit to die. He added, In the Lord Jesus Christ. To this Addition she gave a most cheerful Assent, crying, *Ah! Ah! Ah!* Soon after she would have her Grandfather sent for again, to pray with her; and being asked, what her Grandfa-

ther

"ther should pray for upon her Account, She said, That
 "my Sins may be pardoned, and that I may go to Christ.
 "All the Time her Grandfather was at Prayer with
 "her, her Hands and Eyes were lifted up with the
 "most devout Earnestness. Soon after he had conclude-
 "d his Prayer, she turned herself on her Pillow, and
 "said, Now I think I am going. O my heavenly Fa-
 "ther, I wish I could die now! She then said to her
 "Mother, My Grandfather has been praying for me. O
 "good Grandfather! O Mother, Mother, love the Lord
 "Jesus Christ. Ascribing Kingdom, Power and Glory to
 "him. This she repeated again and again.

She was often expressing her great Affection for
 her Mother, and her anxious Concern to know, that
 her Mother had the same Affection for her. This led
 her Mother to say, in Order to try her, And why
 then, my Phebe, are not you willing to stay with me?
 Is it not better to have Health and Strength, than
 to die? But in Answer to this she only contynned to
 say, and with increasing Tenderness of Spirit, I
 fire to die. I want to die, and go to my heavenly Fa-
 ther, and stay no longer in this sinful and sorrowful
 World!

The greatest Part of Friday she was still repeating
 her earnest Importantries to all her Friends that they
 would love, love, love one another, love the Lord Jesus
 Christ, love Prayer, love the Word of God. And
 all her Friends were beyond Measure melted with
 her Language.

On the same Day her eldest Sister came to her
 Bed-side, and asked her, how she did? She only
 said, Go and pray, go and pray. On

' On Saturday Morning she again earnestly said, *I
desire to be gone. I wish that I could die.* She then
called her Mother to her, and desired her to sing with
her. Little disposed as the Mother was for singing,
while her Child was so near Death, yet she asked,
What shall we sing, my dear? She answered her Mo-
ther, *We will sing a Hymn, and I will line it.* Ac-
cordingly she gave out Line by Line, and exerting
all her little Remains of Strength, sung with her
Mother this Hymn of Dr. Watts.'

" Welcome sweet Day of Rest,
" That saw the Lord arise;
" Welcome to this reviving Breast,
" And these rejoicing Eyes !
" The King himself comes near,
" And feasts his Saints to Day ;
" Here we may sit, and see him here,
" And love, and praise, and pray.
" One Day amidst the Place
" Where my dear God hath been,
" Is sweeter than ten Thousand Days
" Of pleasurable Sin.
" My willing Soul would stay
" In such a Frame as this,
" And sit, and sing herself away
" To everlasting Bliss."

' Not long after, she again desired her Mother to
sing with her. Being again asked what to sing, she
answered as before, and gave out Line by Line this
Hymn from the same Book.'

" And

" And must this Body die ?
 " This mortal Frame decay ?
 " And must these active Limbs of mine
 " Lie mould'ring in the Clay ?
 " Corruption, Earth, and Worms,
 " Shall but refine this Flesh,
 " Till my triumphant Spirit comes
 " To put it on afresh.
 " God my Redeemer lives,
 " And often from the Skies
 " Looks down, and watches all my Dust,
 " Till he shall bid it rise.
 " Array'd in glorious Grace,
 " Shall these vile Bodies shine,
 " And ev'ry Shape, and ev'ry Face,
 " Look heav'nly and divine.
 " These lively Hopes we owe
 " To Jesus' dying Love ;
 " We would adore his Grace below,
 " And sing his Pow'r above.
 " Dear Lord, accept the Praise
 " Of these our humble Songs,
 " Till Tunes of nobler Sound we raise
 " With our immortal Tongues."

But her Nature was so exhausted, that she could
 not sing with her Mother thro' the last Hymn.
 On the Saturday Evening she asked, When will my
 Father come Home ? Being told that he would come
 next Week, she said, If he knew how bad I am, he
 would be very sorry. But it was answered, He does
 not forget to pray for you. And I think, said she,

' I should pray for him. ' She added, after a Pause,
 ' And we should pray with Reverence too. Then she
 began to speak of her younger Sister, She does not
 pray with Reverence, but repeats her Prayers over and
 over again. I hope to teach her a prettier Prayer than
 what she now says.'

' Oh Lord's-day Morning she still cry'd out, O my
 heavenly Father, I wish I could do. I will call upon
 my heavenly Father, and he can ease me of all my Pains.
 Not long after, she said to her Mother, Pray for me,
 pray for me. About that Time her Deafness return-
 ed, and she began to be almost insensible.'

' She died on Tuesday Evening. On Monday she was
 observed to say, with her Hands and Eyes lifted up,
 O do not leave us ! O do not forsake me ! And these
 were thought to be her last sensible Words.'—Now,

2. Let Children, by what they have been hearing,
 take Encouragement to give to the Lord Jesus
 Christ their Hearts, and Lips, and Lives.

Perhaps you are now wishing, that you had been in
 the Temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, when Christ was
 there, giving Sight to the Blind, and Feet to the
 Lame. You are ready to hope, that you also would
 have joined in the Hosannas of the Children mentioned
 in our Text.

No Doubt you have read the little Book, called,
The Token for Children, and have greatly wondered,
 that Persons so young, should have so much Knowledge
 of Christ, and Love to him, and Zeal for him, and
 Desire to be with him in Heaven.

You have now been told of a Child of but *eight*
 Years,

Years old, who was buried this Evening, and whose Heart, and Lip, and Life were full of Christ.

Let me say to you, in the Words of pious Mr. Janeway, " You may now hear, my dear Lambs, what other good Children have done, and may remember, how they wept, and prayed by themselves, and how earnestly they cried for an Interest in the Lord Jesus Christ. You may now read, how dutiful they were to their Parents, how diligent at their Books, and how ready to learn the Scripture, and their Catechism. Can you forget, what Questions they were wont to ask ? How much they feared a Lye ? How much they abhorred naughty Company ? Can you forget, how holy they were in their Lives ? How dearly their Friends loved them ? And how joyfully they died." ^{and will do in your view}

My dear Children, I desire to talk freely with you, and to ask you a few serious Questions. What is the present Temper of your Minds ? Are not your Desires now going out after the Lord Jesus Christ ? Don't you wish to know him, and love him, and serve him ? Are not you resolving to give yourselves up to him, and to do it immediately and without Delay ? Is it not your Grief, that you have spent so little Time in reading of Christ, and in praying for an Interest in him ? Do you find and feel, that Love to Christ fills you with Hatred to Sin ? Does it make you desirous of keeping Company with none but pious Children ? Do you for Christ's Sake honour and obey your Parents ? Does the Love of Christ lead you every Morning and Evening into your Chamber, there to pour out your Hearts to

* In the Preface containing Directions to Children, prefixed to Mr. James Janeway's Token for Children.

God

God in Prayer, for the Pardon of your Sins, for a new Heart, and for the Grace and Spirit of Christ to make you holy, and to fit you for Death and Heaven ?

I hope these, my dear Children, are your Desires and Resolutions. If this be really your present Temper of Mind, it is a Sign the Holy Spirit of God is at Work on your Hearts. It is a Sign, that God is bestowing his Grace upon you, and is drawing you to himself. It is a good Sign, that the Lord Jesus Christ is blessing you, and taking you for his Children, and to be the Lambs of his Flock.

Be of good Comfort. Do not say, or think, that Christ has no Regard to you, nor Love for you. But assure yourselves, that Christ is now in this Place, by his gracious Presence, as really as he was in the Temple at *Jerusalem* by his bodily Presence. Firmly believe it, that Christ takes as much Notice of your present Desires after him, and Love to him, as he then did of the Children's *Hosannas*. And when you are at Home, whether reading the Word of God, or other pious Books, or praying in your Chambers, or hearing the Instructions of your Parents, or joining in Family Prayer, remember how his Eye is upon you, and how much he loves to see you seriously employed in such good Works. He says in his holy Word, and he says it to every Child in this Assembly, *I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me* (e). *Suffer the little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God* (f). Are these the kind and tender Words of the holy and glorious Jesus ? And does he speak such Words to Children ? Can any Thing be more suitable and delightful

(e) Prov. viii, 37.

(f) Mark x, 14.

sai? How should such good and gracious Words win upon your Hearts! How should you take Encouragement from them to give yourselves to such a Saviour! May you early seek Salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ, and secure to yourselves a joyful and glorious Inheritance in the Kingdom of God!—But to conclude,

3. Let all those, who have the Care of educating Children, be most of all solicitous for their Souls, to fill them with the Knowledge and Love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The high Importance of caring for our own Souls, and of taking upon us the Charge of others' Souls, should be estimated, by seriously considering the Nature of the Soul and Eternity, and the infinite Price with which Souls were purchased. The Souls of Children are peculiarly important, as they are the Hopes of future Generations. Not only Families, but Nations and Churches, must be good or bad, happy or miserable, according to the Dispositions and Principles which prevail in Youth. Untractable as corrupt Nature is, yet, says the Commandment and Promise of God, *Train up a Child in the Way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it* (g).

The Knowledge and Love of God, as reconciling Sinners to himself by Jesus Christ our Lord, is the Life and Soul of Education. If Children imbibe this divine Knowledge and Love, they will most effectually learn to entertain humble Thoughts of themselves, as weak and helpless, guilty and polluted. They will earnestly seek, and entirely depend on divine Grace and Strength. They will grow in the real Virtues

(g) Prov. xxiii. 6.

and Excellencies of the christian Temper and Character, and will obtain the very best Preparation for every Station in Society, and for every Event, both of Life and Death.

How endearing are the Obligations, under which Christ has laid all his Ministers, to feed his Lambs (h)! What unspeakable Blessings are those Ministers, who preach, and pray, and catechise, with such Simplicity and Faithfulness, such Affection and Zeal, as if travelling in Birth until Christ be formed in every Heart, and especially in the Children and Youth belonging to their sacred Charge (i).

How should the Heads of Schools and Academies, but especially of Families, be ambitious to bring up their respective Children and Youth in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord Jesus Christ (k)! "I have often thought," says Mr. Janeeway, that Christ speaks "to you Parents, School-Masters, and School-Mistresses, as Pharaoh's Daughter did to the Mother of Moses, Take this Child, and nurse it for me. My dear Friends, consider, what a precious Jewel is committed to your Charge, what an Advantage you have, to shew your Love to Christ, and to stock the next Generation with noble Plants; and what a joyful Account you may make, if you be faithful. Remember, that Souls, Christ, and Grace cannot be over-valued. I confess you have some Disadvantages; but let that only excite your Diligence, since the Salvation of Souls, the Commendation of your Master, and the Greatness of your Reward in eternal Glory, will pay for all."

(h) John xxi. 15. (i) Gal. iv. 19, (k) Ephes. vi. 4.
Mr. James Janeeway's Address to Parents and Teachers of Children, prefixed to his Token.

If all that are engaged in teaching Children, determined not to know any Thing comparatively among them, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified (l), we might chearfully expect to find their tender Minds inspired with the highest Thoughts of him, and the most ardent Concern to be numbered amongst his holy, humble, and heavenly Followers. Who have such peculiarly favourable Opportunities with Children, for discovering and cherishing in them every Appearance of Conviction of Sin, or the Fear of God, or Concern for their eternal Salvation, or Desire and Endeavour after Conformity to Christ, or Preparation to serve and glorify him on Earth, and enjoy him in Heaven? How anxious should they be to improve such Opportunities, with a Patience, Fidelity, and Tenderness, becoming those that are wise to win Souls (m)! With what Ferour of Spirit should they continually pray with them, and for them! And how exactly circumspect should they be, in their own Temper and Conversation, that Children may daily see their eminently holy Examples, and be excited to follow their Parents and Teachers, even as they also follow Christ (n)!

Under such Cultivation, what *Plants of Righteousness* might grow up! Some we hope, would arise to Maturity, possessed of every Excellence in the christian Temper and Character, and long remain to requite their pious Benefactors, by their distinguished Usefulness in the Church, and in the World. Others, like promising Blossoms, that for a while charm every Eye, might probably soon drop into the Grave, just when their christian Graces were but beginning to appear,

(l) 1 Cor. ii. 2. (m) Prov. xi. 30. (n) 1 Cor. xi. 1.

and be joined to the numerous Train of glorified Infants in a better World.

And for pious Parents and Teachers to meet their dear Charge in the heavenly State, is a most delightful Prospect. How will they congratulate each other on the happy Interview! Those Children whose mortal Days were contracted within very narrow Limits, as well as others who were indulged with a much longer Period, will all of them joyfully recollect, and gratefully acknowledge, the blessed Instruments of their being brought to know, and love, and live to the Lord Jesus Christ. While, on the other Hand, the exulting Parents and Teachers will say, "Here are we, "Lord, and the Children which God hath given us (o), "and whom thou knowest it was our constant Care "and Labour, our fervent Desire and Prayer, to give "to thee. What is our Hope, or Joy, or Crown of "Rejoicing, are not even these in the Presence of our "Lord Jesus Christ, at his Coming? For these are our "Glory and Joy (p). Amen.

(o) Heb. ii. 23. (p) 1 Thess. ii. 19, 20.

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THE END.

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